



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6877

LCO No. 4073

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND
QUALITY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall establish,
2 within available appropriations, a competitive safe learning grant
3 program to assist school districts to counteract bullying behavior
4 among students in their schools so that all students may learn in school
5 without fear of physical or verbal harm. No grant under the program
6 shall exceed ____ dollars. Each local and regional board of education
7 may apply for a grant at such time as the Commissioner of Education
8 prescribes. The grant application shall include a plan for the use of
9 grant funds in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this
10 section.

11 (b) The local or regional board of education shall develop the plan
12 in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and child
13 development professionals with expertise in treating aggressive
14 behavior in children. The plan shall provide for: (1) School-wide
15 interventions, including a survey of school safety and bullying
16 problems at each school in the district, increased school supervision in

17 areas where bullying occurs, school-wide public education to increase
18 awareness of bullying problems, teacher in-service training, and staff
19 training on ways to address bullying and aggressive behavior; (2)
20 classroom interventions, including a class code of conduct regarding
21 the treatment of other students with specific regard to bullying and the
22 exclusion of other students, a list of consequences for bullying and
23 aggressive behavior, the integration of the teaching of nonviolent
24 values and behavior into the curriculum and conflict resolution and
25 problem solving skills development, and (3) individual interventions,
26 including counseling, support programs and interventions with
27 students identified as bullies and students identified as victims.

28 (c) On or before January 1, 2006, the Department of Education shall
29 evaluate the effectiveness of programs funded pursuant to this section
30 and shall report its findings, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
31 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
32 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education. The
33 evaluation shall (1) ascertain the impact of anti-bullying strategies on
34 school safety and student perception of safety, (2) determine whether
35 the programs resulted in any reduction in other aggressive behaviors
36 such as vandalism and fighting and any reduction in the number of
37 students who are truant, and (3) include an analysis of pre and post
38 education and training on student behavior in school, parent
39 involvement and teacher responses to intervention and the prevention
40 of bullying.

41 (d) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of
42 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall
43 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the programs for
44 which the grants are awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in
45 accordance with the approved grant application.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) The Department of Education shall provide, within
47 available appropriations, competitive grants to local and regional
48 boards of education for the development of crisis and violence

49 prevention and intervention policies and strategies. Local and regional
50 boards of education may apply to the department for such grants at
51 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education
52 prescribes.

53 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) There is established a state after school program
54 committee composed of the following members: (1) The
55 Commissioners of Social Services, Education, Children and Families
56 and Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Labor
57 Commissioner, or their designees; (2) the Secretary of the Office of
58 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; (3) one
59 representative each from the Commission on Children and the
60 Commission on the Arts; (4) the State Librarian, or the State Librarian's
61 designee; (5) the Director of The University of Connecticut Cooperative
62 Extension Program, or the director's designee; (6) the executive
63 directors of the Connecticut Youth Services Association and the
64 Connecticut School Age Child Alliance, or their designees; (7) six
65 appointed by the Governor who shall be members of the public; (8)
66 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who
67 shall be a superintendent of schools; (9) one appointed by the
68 president pro tempore of the Senate who shall represent youth; (10)
69 one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives
70 who shall be a representative of a local after school collaboration; (11)
71 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be a
72 member of a philanthropic organization; (12) one appointed by the
73 minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall represent
74 business; and (13) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate
75 who shall be a director of a nonprofit after school program. The
76 Commissioners of Social Services and Education shall serve as
77 chairpersons of the committee.

78 (b) The committee shall develop a plan to address the supply,
79 quality and unmet need for after school programs for children,
80 including programs during the summer and school vacations. The plan
81 shall include: (1) Strategies to provide and coordinate staff training for

82 after school programs; (2) strategies to maximize federal, state and
83 local government and private funds for after school opportunities; (3)
84 identify research and practice-based model programs that promote the
85 social, emotional, academic and physical development of children and
86 youth; (4) identify curriculum and quality age appropriate standards
87 for programs; (5) develop benchmarks and outcomes for positive child
88 and youth development; (6) establish age appropriate youth leadership
89 opportunities and opportunities for involvement in after school
90 program planning; and (7) develop strategies to increase community,
91 school and family partnerships.

92 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) The chief elected official of a municipality or the
93 superintendent of schools of a school district may establish a Local
94 After School Planning Committee which may involve one or more
95 municipalities and reflect a public-private partnership. The Local After
96 School Planning Committee may include the following members: The
97 chief elected official or the official's designee; the superintendent of
98 schools or the superintendent's designee; representatives of public
99 entities including, but need not be limited to, the school readiness
100 council, the public library, local police, local health department; the
101 youth service bureau; the family resource center and the child
102 guidance clinic. Representatives from the private sector may include,
103 but need not be limited to: Business; philanthropy; faith based
104 organizations providing after school activities; an after school program
105 director; parents of children participating in after school programs;
106 child development professionals; a representative from a community
107 based neighborhood organization; a representative of a parent
108 organization involved in after school programs and other individuals
109 or groups that are deemed appropriate to accomplish its goal. The
110 members shall elect the chairperson of the Local After School Planning
111 Committee from among the membership.

112 (b) The Local After School Planning Committee may conduct an
113 after school community needs assessment that includes: (1) A
114 demographic review of the number and age of children needing after

115 school programs; (2) an assessment of the need for after school early
116 reading success programs, as determined by the local education
117 agency; (3) a plan for collaboration with nonprofit providers, schools
118 and other community partners for service integration and shared
119 resources; (4) utilization of quality standards, developed pursuant to
120 section 2 of this act; (5) a plan for leveraging federal, state, local,
121 municipal and private funds; (6) establishing goals and outcomes; and
122 (7) program evaluation.

123 Sec. 5. (NEW) (a) The State After School Committee, within
124 available appropriations, may award grants to Local After School
125 Planning Committees for quality after school programs. In order to be
126 eligible for funding pursuant to this section an after school program
127 shall offer appropriate activities for enrichment and education, with
128 attention to safety, health, nutrition, literacy, recreation, arts and
129 technology in a well organized space. Such programs may be available
130 during out of school hours, including weekends, school vacations and
131 the summer.

132 (b) The State After School Committee shall evaluate, within
133 available appropriations, programs funded pursuant to this section.
134 The committee shall report the results of such evaluations to the Local
135 After School Planning Committees and the joint standing committees
136 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
137 education and human services and to the select committee on children.

138 Sec. 6. Section 10-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

140 (a) For the purposes of this section, "youth" shall mean a person
141 from birth to eighteen years of age. Any one or more municipalities or
142 any one or more private youth serving organizations, designated to act
143 as agents of one or more municipalities, may establish a multipurpose
144 youth service bureau for the purposes of evaluation, planning,
145 coordination and implementation of services, including prevention
146 and intervention programs for delinquent, predelinquent, pregnant,

147 parenting and troubled youth referred to such bureau by schools,
148 police, juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies,
149 parents and self-referrals. A youth service bureau shall be the
150 coordinating unit of community-based services to provide
151 comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and
152 follow-up services.

153 (b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of
154 this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the
155 following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent
156 training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment
157 counseling; (4) alternative and special educational opportunities; (5)
158 recreational and youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to
159 insure participation and planning by the entire community for the
160 development of regional and community-based youth services; (7)
161 preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide,
162 violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop
163 positive youth involvement. Such services shall be designed to meet
164 the needs of youth by the diversion of troubled youth from the justice
165 system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youth to
166 function as responsible members of their communities.

167 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall adopt regulations, in
168 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, establishing minimum
169 standards for such youth service bureaus and the criteria for qualifying
170 for state cost-sharing grants, including, but not limited to, allowable
171 sources of funds covering the local share of the costs of operating such
172 bureaus, acceptable in-kind contributions and application procedures.
173 Said commissioner shall [, on December 1, 1979, and annually
174 thereafter,] report, annually, by December first, to the General
175 Assembly on (1) the referral or diversion of children under the age of
176 sixteen years from the juvenile justice system and on the referral or
177 diversion of children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years
178 from the court system, [. Such report] (2) preventive programs,
179 including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, youth violence, alcohol and

180 drug prevention, and (3) truancy. The referral and diversion
181 information pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall
182 include, but not be limited to, the number of times any child is so
183 diverted, the number of children diverted, the type of service provided
184 to any such child, by whom such child was diverted, the ages of the
185 children diverted and such other information and statistics as the
186 General Assembly may request from time to time. Any such report
187 shall contain no identifying information about any particular child.

188 Sec. 7. The sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars is
189 appropriated to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending
190 June 30, 2002, for grants to local and regional boards of education
191 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

192 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a competitive grant program to provide funds for schools to develop programs, policies and strategies for dealing with aggressive behavior by students. To provide funds for the development of policies for establishing and maintaining safe learning environments. To establish a committee to develop a plan for quality after school programs and to provide grants to such programs. To expand the issues covered in reports on the youth service bureau programs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]